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54. The effect of music is perfected in a Choir or Chorus by the collective feeling and animation of the singers, of which I shall speak in the last Chapter.

(To be continued.)

FOREIGN AUTHORS' COPYRIGHT IN ENGLAND.

THIS protracted matter still rests undecided. On the 4th, the Judges Crompton, Williams, Erle, Wightman, Maule, and Coleridge, delivered their opinion in favour of the right; while the Judges Alderson, Park, Pollock, and Jervis, took the opposite side. The final judgment of the Lords,—who are represented by Lord Brougham, Lord St. Leonards, and Lord Cranworth (the Lord Chancellor)—remains still to be given.

We have never been able to account for the doubts which appear to weigh with the minority of the Judges on this question. Copyright is granted to the "author of any book first printed and published in this country." On the most careful examination of the words of all the Copyright acts since Queen Anne, there is nothing to limit the meaning of the words "Author of any book" to the subjects or to residents in this country, but quite the contrary; for the condition ("first printing and publishing in this country,") can be as well fulfilled by a foreign author's representative as if he were here to do it himself; the benefit to English literature is thoroughly complied with, by his providing that his book shall be printed in England, and the act gives copyright to the authors who do so. In the VIIth Section of 41 Geo. III. c. 107, it speaks of it not being lawful to import, &c. "any printed books first composed, written, or printed and published in any part of the said United Kingdom"—evidently contemplating the case of printed and published books, composed or written out of England.

In the early books of the Stationers' Company, several foreigners entered for their copyright; and if we wish to gather the intention of Anne's Act, we ought to remember that the most important books were then published in Holland, or the Low Countries, and that it was the English policy to induce *all* authors to print their books in England, so to advance literature, and they offered the substantial reward of copyright in return.

With what honesty can this country distinguish

between the brains it may rob and those it may not, by the mere accident of the author's birth-place.

The VIIth section of 8 Anne, cap. 19, evidently contemplates that foreigners will avail themselves of the Act which confers copyright on the "Authors of *any* book," as it provides that nothing in the Act shall be construed to hinder the importation of books in Greek, Latin, or any other foreign language printed beyond the sea.

It is to be hoped that the Lords, to whom this important question is now referred, will make an early decision, and that it may be in accordance with national honesty and the real interests of literature, securing the Author's rights in the fruit of his own brain, whatever may happen to be the land of his birth or adoption.

THE THREATENED PROSECUTION OF THE "MUSICAL TIMES."

ACCORDING to the promise at page 119, the two following letters are printed:—

"London, 69, Dean-street, Soho, 26th June, 1854.

"SIR,—I should feel very grateful for a reply to my letter of 9th June, enquiring if the prosecution is to take place against the *Musical Times*, and whether anything were intended by the threats of the 8th May. I have been trying to relieve my anxiety since your silence by reference to the course pursued towards former alleged offenders. I find the case of the *Racing Times*, which was said to admit of no delay, and 'which no person could doubt was a newspaper liable to stamp duty,' in Sept. 1851., but since which no prosecution has ensued. I find on the other hand the more doubtful case of the *Commercial Journal*, in Dublin, so late as this year, prosecuted, the proprietor brought to the brink of the Insolvents' Court, his paper nearly ruined, and although the verdict decided he had not violated the law, he had £100 to pay for the expense of defending his property from an unjust attack. I find numbers of papers crushed out of existence by the threats of the Inland Revenue, and on the other hand the discreditable exhibition of that office